

**LINE UNBREAKABLE,
ASSERTS VON KLUCK**

German Front on Somme Not
Badly Dented Despite Great
Allied Drive.

BRITISH LOSSES

**At Least 100,000 More Than
Teutons', Says Famous
Commander.**

**By CARL W. ACKERMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.**

STRAUSGESS, Germany, Aug. 26.—In eight weeks of tremendous effort, was lavish expenditure of human flesh and blood and ammunition, the Allies not only have failed to break the German line on the Somme, but have

"In eight weeks of fighting they have gained a few kilometers at considerable losses," said the German war correspondent. "The English have accomplished practically nothing. They have only exposed themselves to our counter attack, which will certainly come."

We were seated in the smoking room of Wilkendorf Castle, near Strasbourg. Before us was a map of the Somme battle line. Gen. von Kluck first explained the position of the British and then said: "We are in command on this front because we were wounded. The territory the Allies are now trying to break through is the

same bound across which Von Kluck hurried with his army during the first advance into France in August, 1914. After twenty-two months of fighting, the battle line at this point shows practically no change except that the Germans have been pushed back a few kilometers. "The English losses on the Somme have been terrible," continued Gen. von Kluck. "They have been much greater than ours. The English had to put more men into each attack. Their losses must exceed ours by at least 100,000."

"Is that many for the large area of England is reported to have?" he was asked.

Effect of Heavy Losses.

"The decisive thing is always to be plenty of men," he replied; "but where there is a great offensive like the Anglo-French movement and high progress is made; when the losses are great and no progress is evident, the spirit of the troops weakens and this weakens the offensive."

"It is reported abroad that Germany is facing a great military crisis and that the Allies are attacking on the

"You can see for yourself that there is no crisis," the General laughingly replied. "Eight weeks have passed since the Anglo-American ultimatum, and the preparations for it must have been completed. England brought armies that might never have been expected of her, and the Japanese Government has been at it for weeks. It was Kitchener's island, Panama, despite her weakness at Verdun, and in the past years of her glory, that in the last months of her life, had the mother of the armies of France, Poland, the United States and Japan, most feverishly to supply the allied states with tremendous amounts of material for a general offensive on the fronts."

Moment Well Chosen.

"The moment of the attack seems

"The battle of the Somo was arranged for several weeks. It was a tremendous use of ammunition and big stores of human material, but the of the general offensive was a

portant when estimated in terms of the waste of physical and moral forces. The German front on the summer of 1918 shaken despite the best of the British and backward flanking, where the British armies are locked in struggle in the "stages."

But change has taken place in the German victorious tone of the first half of a few weeks ago. The French and British patterns now export their own "patient and not to expect the final victory." "On the front of the battle," and throughout the entire front, and hells in victory grow. A new from Verdun spoke of the mass of the German troops. This is the

The conversation turned to the late Marshal French, who was Van Dine's opponent in the battle of May 1940.

"Please don't write that," said the General. "During the war we must not take sides with our opponents. It is always better to remain neutral, as well even of our opponents. There are too many things about the war that can be written, but it is better to leave them as they are, and not to constitute a whole library."

"How long do you think the war will last?" was one question I asked the General.

"It can last years or days, or even hours," he replied. "The end of the war is not known. It is suddenly as an accident. A single day, a single paper sized up the situation, and the war suddenly when it said 'The war is over, and peace'."



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